

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 9, 15, 18, 24, 27 and 32-35 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-14, 16, 17, 20-23, 25, 26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,771,896 ("the Tamura patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,454 ("the Hwang patent") and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071035 ("the Sobol publication"). Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 10, 19 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tamura patent in view the Hwang patent and the Sobol publication, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,132 ("the Higuchi patent"). Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tamura patent in view the Hwang patent and the Sobol publication, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,460 ("the Takahashi patent"). Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Entry of amendments

Since the amendments merely cancel rejected claims to place this application into condition for allowance, the amendments should be entered.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Any arguments made in this amendment pertain **only** to the specific aspects of the invention **claimed**. Any claim amendments or cancellations, and any arguments, are made **without prejudice to, or disclaimer of**, the applicant's right to seek patent protection of any unclaimed (e.g., narrower, broader, different) subject matter, such as by

way of a continuation or divisional patent application
for example.

Respectfully submitted,

September 26, 2008



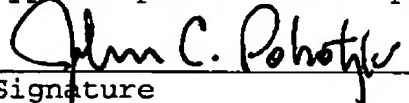
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September 26, 2008

Date